

Educational Background of Adult Population

OUTCOME: INCREASE EDUCATIONAL SKILL LEVELS

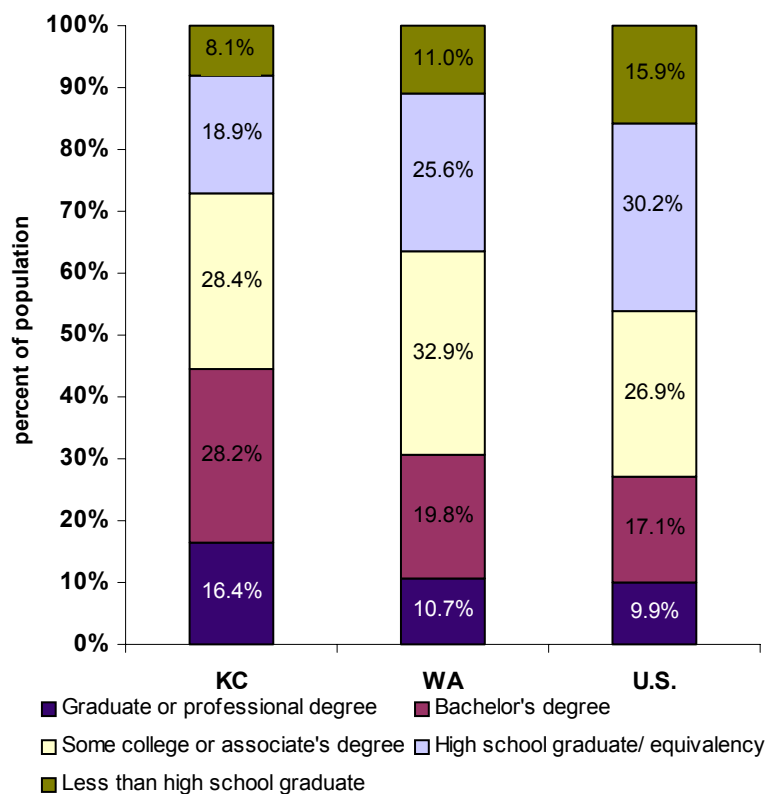
Countywide Planning Policy Rationale

"An important component of achieving economic development is through...improved job training and educational opportunities..." (CPP FW-35) "Job training, retraining, and educational opportunities are critical to develop and maintain a highly skilled workforce." (CPP, ED-13)

Almost 92% of King County's adult population (age 25+) has graduated high school. Close to 45% of the adult population has earned a bachelor's degree or higher. Men have a slightly higher rate of education attainment, with almost 47% of men earning post-secondary degrees compared to 43% of their female counterparts.

The percentage of King County's adult population with a bachelor's degree or higher is markedly higher than those in Washington state and nationally. For one in six American adults, a bachelor's degree is the highest degree earned, compared to one in five adults in Washington state and one in four adults in King County. This education gap is more pronounced for adults earning graduate or professional degrees. One in six adults in King County have earned these advanced degrees, compared to about one in ten adults in Washington state and nationally earning these degrees. As shown in figure 7.2, education attainment among King County's adult population is comparable to other large metropolitan areas.

Figure 7.1

Education Attainment of Adult Population (Age 25+):
King County, Washington, United States

source: American Community Survey

Figure 7.2

Education Attainment of Adult Population (Age 25+) in U.S. Counties										
	Arlington County, VA	Hennepin County, MN	King County	Maricopa County, AZ	Miami Dade County, FL	Multnomah County, OR	San Diego County, CA	San Francisco, CA	Santa Clara County, CA	Suffolk County, MA
Percent high school graduate or higher	92.3%	92.0%	91.9%	84.0%	76.2%	88.0%	84.9%	84.9%	86.2%	82.0%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	67.2%	41.7%	44.6%	27.8%	26.5%	35.5%	33.3%	50.4%	44.1%	37.8%
Graduate or professional degree	34.3%	14.0%	16.4%	9.8%	9.6%	13.6%	12.7%	18.9%	19.0%	16.3%

source: American Community Survey